Target for production of petroleum products

1320. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the indigenous petroleum products with production target fixed at the end of Seventh Plan period; and

(b) whether Oil targets set for the Seventh Plan have been achieved and if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) The target fixed for the production of petroleum products during the terminal year (1989-90) of Seventh Plan is 45.47 million tonnes.

(b) The target of 34.53 million tonnes of crude oil production in the terminal year of the Seventh Plan is expected to be met.

Automation of manual exchanges

1321. SHRI ARANGIL SREEDHARAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that large number of manual exchanges are operating in this country; and

(b) if so, what steps the Government has taken to automatize the manual exchanges?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government has decided to convert all manual exchanges into automatic exchanges by end of the Eighth Five Year Plan subject to availability of equipment.

Commercial production of indigenous electronic exchanges has since commenced. It is proposed to step up this prodution to meet this objective.

Kerala Power Projects

1322. SHRI ARANGIL SREEDHARAN: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the hydel power projects of Silent Valley and the Karappara-Kurivarkutty in Kerala have not been cleared by the Central Government; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. These schemes were not cleared as they involved submergence of vast forest areas and because of their adverse effect on the environment.

Public Sector units in Pondicherry

1323. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to set up public sector units in the Union Terrtory of Pondicherry; and

(b) if so, whether the industries have been identified and by when those industries will be set up in Pondicherry State?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) No, Sir. There is no proposal pending with the Government for setting up Central Public Sector Units in Pondicherry in Industrial and Mineral sector for which information is available.

(b) Does not arise